



Decision Support Briefing for SnowEx (NASA) – 21 February, 2017

Overview

Scattered to broken cloud cover will continue the rest of today with the low levels saturating this evening once again, for some low cloud cover developing over the Grand Mesa and to a lesser extent the peaks of the San Juans (including Senator Beck). These low clouds will hug the higher terrain overnight into Wednesday morning before lifting by late morning/early afternoon. Mid and high level clouds will still occur Wednesday afternoon ahead of the next storm system with breezy conditions. Some development of low clouds will occur late Wednesday afternoon over higher terrain with the surface cold front getting hung up on the bookcliffs north of I-70 until Wednesday evening before it swings southward. So the best chance of precipitation, in the form of snow over the higher terrain will be Wednesday evening after sunset through Friday morning with all day Thursday looking pretty stormy and colder. Conditions improve with most precipitation coming to an end by late Friday morning into the afternoon. Mid and high level cloud cover will hang around through the day on Friday and into Saturday, with clouds thickening and lowering late Saturday evening ahead of another storm system set to impact the area on Sunday.

Local Weather Hazards for 10 Miles NNW Cedaredge CO (Grand Mesa at Mesa/Delta Co Line)

[Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)

National Weather Service Forecast for 10 Miles NNW Cedaredge CO (Grand Mesa at Mesa/Delta Co Line)

For the latest forecast, go to:

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=39.027&lon=-108.02>

Tonight: A 40 percent chance of snow, mainly after 10pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low

around 28. West southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday: Snow, mainly after 2pm. High near 35. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Wednesday Night: Snow. Low around 15. South southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Thursday: Snow. High near 22. West wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Thursday Night: Snow likely. Cloudy, with a low around 6. West wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Friday: A 30 percent chance of snow showers, mainly before 11am. Partly sunny, with a high near 18.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 7.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 23.

Saturday Night: A chance of snow showers, mainly after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 14.

Sunday: A chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 28.

Sunday Night: A chance of snow showers. Cloudy, with a low around 20.

Monday: A chance of snow showers. Cloudy, with a high near 31.

Monday Night: A chance of snow showers. Cloudy, with a low around 19.

Tuesday: Snow showers likely. Cloudy, with a high near 28.

Local Weather Hazards for 7 Miles ENE Ophir CO (Senator Beck)

[Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)

National Weather Service Forecast for 7 Miles ENE Ophir CO (Senator Beck)

For the latest forecast, go to

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=37.905&lon=-107.72>

Tonight: A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly after 5am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. Breezy, with a southwest wind 20 to 25 mph.

Wednesday: A 40 percent chance of snow, mainly after 3pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 27. Windy, with a southwest wind 25 to 30 mph.

Wednesday Night: Snow likely, mainly after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 8. Windy, with a southwest wind 25 to 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Thursday: Snow likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 12. Wind chill values as low

as -10. Breezy, with a west southwest wind 20 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Thursday Night: Snow likely, mainly before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around -3. Breezy, with a west wind 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Friday: A 30 percent chance of snow showers, mainly before noon. Partly sunny and cold, with a high near 8.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 2.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 17. Breezy.

Saturday Night: A chance of snow showers, mainly after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 12.

Sunday: Snow showers likely, mainly after noon. Cloudy, with a high near 22. Breezy.

Sunday Night: Snow showers likely. Cloudy, with a low around 15. Breezy.

Monday: A chance of snow showers. Cloudy, with a high near 23. Windy.

Monday Night: A chance of snow showers. Cloudy, with a low around 13. Breezy.

Tuesday: Snow showers likely. Cloudy, with a high near 20. Breezy.

Aviation Forecast for Grand Junction Regional Airport

KGJT 212344Z 2200/2224 31008KT P6SM SCT060 BKN150
FM220200 07008KT P6SM BKN060 BKN150 WS020/23035KT
FM220600 32010KT P6SM BKN060 BKN150 WS020/23035KT
FM221000 29008KT P6SM BKN060 BKN150
FM221800 26013G22KT P6SM BKN060 BKN120=

Aviation Forecast for Colorado Springs Airport

KCOS 212340Z 2200/2224 28014G24KT P6SM FEW110 SCT200
FM220100 24014KT P6SM SCT110
FM220700 26015G25KT P6SM SCT200 WS020/27040KT
FM221500 24025G35KT P6SM SCT200=

Aviation Forecast for Centennial Airport

KAPA 212321Z 2200/2224 22012KT P6SM SCT140 BKN220
FM220200 25012KT P6SM SCT220
FM220600 25014G21KT P6SM SCT220
FM221200 25012KT P6SM SCT220
FM221700 28015G22KT P6SM SCT220=

Discussion

Grand Mesa forecast cloud levels:

Wednesday: CIGS BKN to OVC 200 to 300 ft AGL in the morning with chance of some lower clouds hugging the ground at the mid slopes on the south side in

the morning until about 11 am, before lifting by late morning/early afternoon. CIGS rise to between 1000 ft and 3000 ft AGL with scattered mid level clouds by 2 pm with broken high clouds around 12,000 ft AGL. Clouds thicken and lower in the evening by sunset with fully saturated layer after 11 pm with the top of the Grand Mesa obscured at times.

Senator Beck forecast cloud levels:

Wednesday: Low level clouds over the peaks Wednesday morning before lifting after 11 am with scattered mid level cloud deck at 5,000 ft AGL and broken high level cloud deck at 15,000 ft AGL by Wednesday afternoon. Fully saturated by 11 pm with mountains becoming obscured at times.

Current PIREPS: <https://www.aviationweather.gov/airep/plot?type=turb@ion=SW>

Current SITREPS: <https://www.aviationweather.gov/sigmat>

Current radar:

<http://radar.weather.gov/radar.php?rid=GJX&product=NCR&overlay=11101111&loop=yes>

Current satellite: <http://www.weather.gov/satellite?image=ir#ir>

Hourly weather graphics for the Grand Mesa:

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=39.0326&lon=-108.0245&unit=0&lg=english&FcstType=graphical>

Hourly weather graphics for Senator Beck:

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=37.9247&lon=-107.7179&unit=0&lg=english&FcstType=graphical>

For official pilot briefings, call 1-800-WX-BRIEF

For Further Information

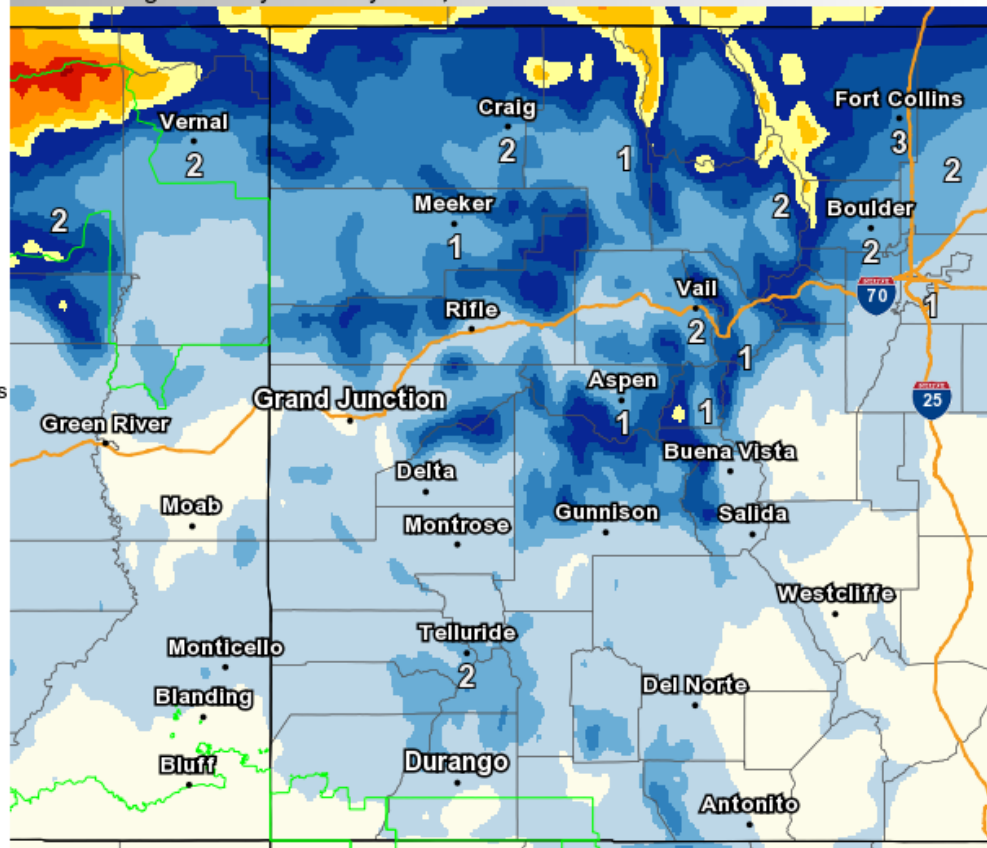
- Contact National Weather Service operations 24 hours a day at 970-256-9463 (unlisted)
- For specific support of emergency response incidents, request a spot forecast by contacting the NWS forecast office by phone or online.
- Online spot forecast request available at:
<http://www.weather.gov/spot/monitor/?lat=39.0293452169889&lon=-109.20392753906285&z=7>

Forecaster: Matthew Aleksa

Forecast Snowfall

National Weather Service

Valid Ending Thursday February 23rd, 2017 at 5 PM MST



Graphic Created
February 21st, 2017
4:45 PM MST